

BOOKS OF THE WEEK SEEN IN REVIEW AND COMMENT

CRITICAL REVIEWS
OF THE SEASON'S
LATEST BOOKSRural Life, Recurrent Family Traits, Love of the Old
for Children and Other Points in New Fiction.Impressions from the Battle Front, Recollections of
the Kaiser and Other Themes Bearing on the War.Superstitions Concerning Jewels, Biography of
Kipling, Care of Infants and Other Subjects.

A pleasant rural tale that occasionally has a good deal of life in it is evolved out of somewhat heterogeneous literary materials by Walter Hamlyn in "Midsummer Magic" (G. P. Putnam's Sons). The gypsy streak in his hero is purely arbitrary and never accounts for his behavior; he is a very decent young fellow, singularly fascinating to women, and we can sympathize with his inclination to keep still in the hope of finding out what the various females who project themselves into his life will do next. They do not have much individuality, but serve their purpose of getting the young man into trouble. The rustic is much more interesting though they all have the penetration and wit which is more common in English rural fiction than in real life. The peasant girl's love affair is worked out with vigor and feeling, and the other amatory episodes are satisfactory. It is all artificial but pretty.

It is a strange book that Valentina Hawtree has written in "In a Desert Land" (Duffield and Company), the chronicle through several centuries of an English family in which an odd type occurs at intervals. This is a person with high ideals who misses them on account of a streak of scepticism which crops out at critical moments. The author tells of three such instances, leading up to them with a full account of every member of the family, with elaborate pictures of social and religious life at the time and with allusions to contemporary British history. She also relates the after-history and fills in the gaps with genealogical details. Whether she is working out some theory of heredity and whether the family's keeping Catholic has something to do with it or not is not very clear. The episodes are very interesting, but the ordinary relatives in each period are far more vivid and natural than the young man or woman whose mental peculiarities are dissected. It is patient, careful work very well written, which will repay the reader for the labor of reading it. The genealogical tables would be more helpful if placed before the stories instead of after them, and the stories would be clearer if all the members of the family that have nothing to do with them were not mentioned.

The experiences of a young American just out of college, who is sent by an arbitrary Dutch uncle to manage a tin mine in the East Indies, are related by Henry Miller in "White Tiger" (Duffield and Company). The youth has lucky made friends with a small Chinese boy who is studying English, and the boy's influence among the East Indian Chinese enables the hero to make good. He also runs into a nice girl who provides a satisfactory ending. The story is told rather artlessly and is pleasing.

A very delightful story, noticed some time ago in THE SUN, Mary E. Phillips' "Tommy Tregennis" is published in a holiday edition, with colored illustrations by M. V. Wheelerhouse (G. P. Dutton and Company). Though it revolves around a small Cornish boy the story really tells of the pathetic struggles of a poor school teacher. The pictures are charming.

The "Stories Without a Name" by Donn Byrne (Hearst's International Library Company, New York), are deliberately forcible and vigorous. Many of them have to do with fighting on the battlefield, in the wilderness with wild beasts or in other places with bare fists. Emphasis is put on the primeval qualities of man. In

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their rough way the stories are effective. A charming young girl who plays the violin and is remarkably ignorant of the ways of the world is the heroine of Grace Miller White's "Rose of Paradise" (The H. K. Fly Company, New York). She is persecuted by an abnormally heartless pair of villains, as exist only in photoplays, and is sheltered by amiable derelicts. With much that is absurd some scenes in the story are pretty.

A dejected millionaire talks to an intellectual nursemaid on Ritterside Drive in Eleanor M. Ingram's "A Man's Heart" (J. B. Lippincott Company), and her influence is strong enough to make him break with a married woman who is planning to divorce her husband in order to marry him. He drives his car into Jersey, and then induces the nursemaid to marry him and give him a home, while he sets to work in a factory. The moral is excellent and the author makes it clear that the spread of divorce is going to change the accepted conventions of fiction.

The attempt of Esther Singleton to write a story, "A Daughter of the Revolution" (Moffat, Yard and Company), is not very successful. The heroine is interesting at first, so long as she works for a newspaper. She seems to lose her backbone morally and intellectually after that and serves merely as a means of describing interiors, costumes, places, an operative performance and such matters. She drifts into the society that provides the title for the book and instead of attending the convention goes sight-seeing around Washington. The author carries her off at last, for she never does not know what else to do with her.

The understanding of old people for little children is described very prettily by Clara E. Laughlin in the beginning of "When My Ship Comes Home" (Fleming H. Revell Company), and so is the boy and girl friendship in the Gloucester home. When the hero grows up and undertakes to develop a voice she becomes commonplace, and the introduction of the author's travel impressions of Naples and vicinity is rather violent.

Descriptions of the vacations of an instructor at the Robert College and of excursions around Constantinople will be found in Stanwood Cobb's "Ayesha of the Bosphorus" (Murray and Emery Company, Boston). The account of his making love to a Turkish girl and of his religious sympathies is realistic but not very edifying. A refinement of sentiment that eludes ordinary comprehension will be found in Anna Strunsky Wallina's "Violeta of the Lachusi" (Frederick Stokes Company). The heroine is an exasperated and morbid interest in the great Paris cemetery and, as she grows up, a craving to go on the stage and a hankering for an anarchist of socialist meetings. She also has a sort of love affair. At no time does she arouse interest.

A number of short stories are published separately. Some are about animals. In "The Little Red Dog" (Little, Brown and Company) Chauncey J. Hawkins describes the pitiful sufferings of the dear in winter and investigates against the hunters who pursue them. In "Scally" (Houghton Mifflin Company) Ian Hay begins humorously with a search for a dog and the adoption of a puppy that pulls itself out of a pond into which it had been thrown to drown, but soon turns to a human love story. W. Dayton Weckert in "The True Story of Bum" (Sully and Kleinfelder, New York) relates very directly the tale of a mongrel that attached himself to a tender-hearted theatrical manager, who became very fond of him.

The Catholic marriage ceremony is described by John Trevena in "Matrimony" (Mitchell Kennerly, New York) through the actions of a pair of young medieval lovers and the comments of the priest. The hard heartedness of Kansas farmers is rebuked by Margaret Hill McCarter in "The Corner Stone" (A. C. McClurg and Company, Chicago) and a love story is attached to Purgatory. The small girl part is oversentimental but is pretty.

BOOKS ON THE WAR.

It was to be expected that Arnold Bennett, like a good many other British literary men, should take the trip across the Channel and turn his hasty impressions to journalistic use. In "Over There" (George H. Doran



Horace Annisley Vachell
AUTHOR OF
"SPRAGGLES CANYON"
(ROMAN)

Emily Vele Strother
AUTHOR OF "EVE DORRE"
(DUTTON)

Company) he expresses his detestation of the Germans and notes scenes and incidents which he happened to see. For example, he drove to a place called Barcy, which had been damaged by war. While he was writing on the porch three little boys came up and diligently stared at me. "What do you want?" I said sharply to the tallest. "Nothing," he replied. Then three widows came up, one young, one young and beautiful, one middle aged. We got back into the carriage. "The village seems very deserted," I said to the driver. "What would you?" he answered. "Many went. They had no home. Few have returned." A triumph of realism.

The defense of "Belgium Neutral" (G. P. Putnam's Sons) by Emily Waxweiler, was written long before this translation was made and was therefore timely. Few Americans have taken the German accusations seriously, so that the demonstration of the absolute correctness of Belgium's attitude may seem superfluous. It may be recommended to such sympathizers with the German side as are amenable to reasonable views about their opponents, if there are any such. A description of the various duties of the soldiers at the front, from digging trenches to handling artillery, enlivened with incidents that occurred, has been written by Boyd Cable in "Between the Lines" (E. P. Dutton and Company). The author supplies much information that people who are watching the war will be glad to have, while nowhere touching on anything that the censorship may resent. It is the life of the soldiers and not the operations of the war.

Paul Willet in "Poulter Biglow in his childhood" should be for a while the playmate of the present Kaiser and has never been able to forget the fact. In "Frasen Memories, 1844-1914" (G. P. Putnam's Sons) he repeats his reminiscences of those days and adds many thoughts and impressions of his own about Germany and the Germans, the present war and other matters.

In the form of question and answer, which is a help to clearness, Commander Thomas Dryden Parker explains in a little "Naval Handbook" (John J. Newberry, San Francisco) a great many matters about ships and seamen which may be puzzling to landmen. He also deals with many of the problems about the rights of neutrals on the sea that have arisen during the present war. It is a useful and convenient little book.

WAR STORIES.

An interesting book as well as an excellent example of the reporter's enterprise has been put together by Walter Wood in "Soldiers' Stories of the War" (Brentano's). He interviewed twenty-four privates and non-commissioned officers who had been sent home wounded, took down their accounts of the fight in which each was engaged, submitted his copy to them for revision and polished the result. The name of the author of each story is given. The events all occurred in the early campaigns, which permits the publication now, and extend from Mons to Neuve Chapelle. Only one is a tale.

The sarcasm that E. V. Lucas expends on Sven Hedin and his book is really funny and more good natured than might be expected. The skit is entitled "In Gentile Germany" (John Lane Company), by Hun Svend, and the illustrations by George S. Morris are amusing. It is rather small business for Mr. Lucas to engage in, but he manages to preserve his amiability and his sense of humor.

Apparently Arthur Machen wrote a fairly good war story, which he called "The Bonnet" (G. P. Putnam's Sons), in which he made the ghosts of the men who fought at Agincourt come to the aid of their descendants fighting in Flanders. The story met with some success, whereupon he takes it upon himself to evolve a spiritualistic origin for it, and to connect some more ghost stories of the war. We have discovered in these various literary recollections but no trace of spirituality. The English armies in Flanders so far have followed the traditions of Uncle Toby's day and have not sought aid from spectres.

Four very well written and pathetic stories of life in England during war times will be found in H. Fielding Hall's "The Field of Honour" (Houghton Mifflin Company). Two very respectable patriotic poems complete the little volume.

Several episodes in the experience of a young American girl and of two energetic Englishwomen while performing ambulance service on the firing line in Belgium are related in story form in "Young Hilda at the Wars," by Arthur Gleason (Frederick A. Stokes Company). The stories are certainly exciting and the author declares



Princess Lazarovich
AUTHOR OF "PALACES AND PLEASURES"
(CENTURY)

that they are true in all that is essential.

VARIED INFORMATION.

A treasure house of fascinating superstitions and fancies is what George Frederick Kunz has built in "The Magic of Jewels and Charms" (J. B. Lippincott Company). If his style is somewhat encyclopedic and his accounts are condensed, it is due to the nature of the subject and the need of compressing a great deal into a single volume. He begins with an account of the belief in magic stones among all peoples; then tells of theories, of medicinal stones, of snake stones, of stones to which religious ideas are attached, and of charms and amulets, winding up with miscellaneous jewel lore. The book is copiously illustrated, and some of the plates are colored. Many portions may be read at a stretch, but it is above all a book to dip into.

If there were more biography in John Palmer's "Rudyard Kipling" (Henry Holt and Company) and less fear of irritating an irascible writer the little book would be much more valuable. The author contents himself with rather humdrum accounts of Kipling's stories, chiefly those that have to do with India, but his criticism is genuine. That is, Wilson Follett's "Joseph Conrad" (Doubleday, Page and Company), which was prefixed, if we are not mistaken, to a collected edition of Conrad, is more perfunctory, being the sort of "appreciation" which is mostly praise and the discovery of qualities in his author which he has not in those which most respectable writers possess.

For young couples who do not object to exclusion from modern apartments, Dr. Richard M. Smith of Harvard has prepared an excellent little manual on "The Baby's First Two Years" (Houghton Mifflin Company). He tells the mother how to get ready for the infant, what she is to do for it and how she shall behave herself, and also provides for various common contingencies, such as having to travel with the baby. The advice is clear, sensible and helpful.

Older boys, particularly those who indulge in organized sports, may obtain good advice on training and exercise from Harry H. Moore's "Keeping Young" (Macmillan). The author indulges also in plain talk on sexual matters.

A scientific treatise on a branch of business which has been brought into great prominence by the war and is passing through unusual vicissitudes has been prepared by William P. Spalding in "Foreign Exchange and Foreign Bills" (Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, New York). The author writes in England, which is of little consequence, as England sets the standard for the world, but he takes into account conditions in all other countries with unusual care and fullness, notably the United States, South America and the Far East. He explains the practice and the theory on which it rests very clearly, so that even the layman can understand him.

The mechanism for producing and putting on the market "Photoplay Scenarios" (Hearst's International Library Company) is described by Eustace Hale Hall in a manner to encourage those craving for a short cut to fortune. He gives examples of several portions of plays of his own.

A description of the towns created artificially around great industrial plants is given by Graham R. Taylor in "Satellite Cities" (Appletons). He has studied chiefly Pullman and the industrial towns around Chicago, some in the South and one in England. He has been unable to free himself from the style of reports, and leaves the reader with more confidence in his

Mr. Vachell, though an Englishman, spent several years on a California ranch, and his new book is set in California. He has one play now running in New York, and a second is to be produced shortly.

Princess Hubliandovich, reversing the situation, is a native of California who has spent many years living in Europe. Her wide acquaintance with celebrities in social and artistic life equips her for her present work.

power of observation than in his deductions.

OTHER BOOKS.

The two new volumes of Francis Arkwright's excellent translation of Saint Simon's "Memoirs" cover the later and gloomy years of Louis XIV's reign. They appear under the sub-titles "When Madame de Maintenon was Queen" and "War and Court Gossip 1710-1714" (Brentano's). The translator's condensation consists only in omitting the drier and less important matter, and even with this the memoirs present a rather formidable bulk to the English reader, for two more equally large volumes are yet to come. Those who take the time will be rewarded by this cynical first hand account of what went on behind the scenes at the court of the Grand Monarque.

A philosopher who is often spoken of and occasionally quoted, but of whose sayings and beliefs Westerners in general are woefully ignorant, is brought to the ordinary reader's attention by Miles Menander Dawson in "The Ethics of Confucius" (G. P. Putnam's Sons), for which a well known Celestial, Wu Ting-fang, has written a bright preface. The author has classified the Confucian sayings on statesmanship and ethics according to subjects and distinctions familiar to the Western mind and has accompanied them with a running comment of his own. In this form it is not difficult to form some idea of what the Confucian teaching means, and perhaps to discover that the Chinese ideas are right and wrong are not so very different from our own.

An English evangelical temperance lecturer, E. Tension Smith, has written reminiscences of his career in "From Memory's Storehouse" (E. W. Partridge and Company, London). The incidents he records are generally of a personal character and must have seemed of little importance even to himself. They may interest persons who have heard him or who favor the cause he advocates, and their number must be great, for he has traveled all around the world. The average reader will care little for the book.

By picking out the contributions of the late Prof. Frederick W. Maitland from a general history and arranging them in proper sequence, Prof. James F. Colling of Dartmouth has rendered a great service to students of law and their instructors. He has joined to the articles on a later period of Prof. Francis C. Montague, entitled the book "A Sketch of English Legal History" (G. P. Putnam's Sons).

Scholarship cannot afford to lose even a scrap that Maitland wrote; here he condensed the sum of his knowledge into the briefest and clearest form and covered the whole period of the law, down to the Statutes and the beginning of modern conditions. The later portion his colleague dealt with adequately. Prof. Colling has added notes, excellent bibliographies and

important documents. It is an admirable and useful piece of work. Always exciting, no matter how many books may be written about it, is the story that Norman J. Davidson repeats in "The Romance of the Spanish Main" (J. B. Lippincott Company). He begins properly with an account of the waters and the islands frequented by the buccaniers and the story of the Elizabethan practical adventurers, from Hawkins and Drake to Raleigh. Then he tells of the pirates and buccaniers and their deeds, resorting to the contemporary memoirs rather than to the formal histories. Sir Henry Morgan naturally fills the largest number of pages. It is a book that boys of all ages will enjoy.

The scope of H. Stanley Jevons' "British Coal Trade" (Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Company; E. P. Dutton and Company) is much wider than the title implies. While half of the volume is devoted to descriptions of the coal fields, the methods of mining, the uses to which coal and the by-products are put and trade in coal throughout the world, fully as much space is given to labor troubles, the mining laws, combinations of owners and such matters. It is a very complete and authoritative manual on all aspects of the most important British industry. The war gives immediate importance to the admirably clear and condensed treatise on "War Surgery" by Edmond Delorme, which H. de Morie has translated (Paul B. Hoeber, New York). The author limits himself to the surgery which the surgeons at the front will have to deal with in all probability.

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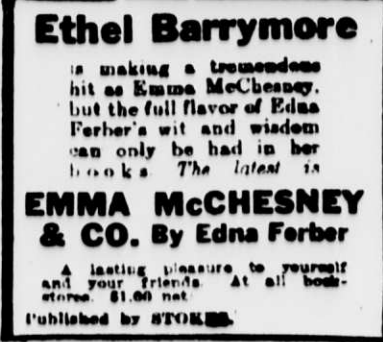
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